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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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FM PARIS

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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SECRET 041155Z OCT 71

FM AMBASSADOR PORTER, PARIS 1730

TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY FOR DR. KISSINGER

1. I AM NOW QUITE SURE THAT NVN AND VC ARE FIRMLY ATTACHED TO CONCEPT THAT THESE TALKS ARE "INDISPENSABLE" AND MUST CONTINUE. IN THAT THEY RESEMBLE THE NORTH KOREANS WHO REGARD PANUMJOM DISCUSSIONS AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR PRESTIGE AND PROPAGANDA-REASONS. THE WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN PARIS GIVE THE NVN/VC SOMETHING FOR WHICH THEY COULD FIND NO SUBSTITUTE. THEY NEED NOT EVEN NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY BECAUSE AS LONG AS WE KEEP COMING TO THE TABLE THEY RETAIN THE TALKS AS AN EXCELLENT SOUNDING BOARD FOR THEIR PROPAGANDA.

2. I SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE THEM PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE, PERHAPS BY USING THE ISSUE OF THEIR HARSH TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. THIS PROBABLY SHOULD NOT BE APPROACHED BY US IN PARIS, HOWEVER. IF IDEA OF EXTRACTING SOMETHING FROM THEM HAS MERIT IT MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH A DISCREET CHANNEL TO AVOID PUTTING THEM PUBLICLY IN AN EITHER/OR POSITION. IN SUCH AN APPROACH WE WOULD LET THEM KNOW THAT UNLESS THEY PROVIDE THE INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES WE HAVE REQUESTED AND PERMIT CONFIRMATION BY AN IMPARTIAL BODY WE MAY HAVE TO SUSPEND (NOT TERMINATE) THE TALKS.

3. THE DANGER OF PASSING IT TO THEM DISCREETLY LIES OF COURSE IN POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO SUSPEND TALKS THEMSELVES ON SOME PRETEXT SUCH AS PROTECTIVE RAID. IF THAT IS DEEMED LIKELY THEN PERHAPS THE BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TO SPRING IT ON THEM PUBLICLY AND GIVE THEM A REASONABLE PERIOD IN WHICH TO FORMULATE THEIR RESPONSE.

4. WARM REGARDS.

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